


2012

0793: Thomas J. Buffington Copy of Savage Land Grant Survey, 1816

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Thomas J. Buffington Copy of Savage Land Grant Survey, 1816

ACC 2012/04.0793



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2019

Thomas J. Buffington Copy of Savage Land Grant Survey, 1816

Collection Summary:

Title: Thomas J. Buffington Copy of Savage Land Grant Survey

Span Dates: 1816

Creator: Thomas J. Buffington

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019

Accession Number: 2012/04.0793

Date Completed: June, 2019

Access to Collection: Open

Search Terms:

Savage Land Grant

Land surveys

Biographical Notes:

The Savage Grant was not for service in the Revolutionary War. Based on their service during the French & Indian War, (1754 to 1763) Virginia Governor John Dunmore in 1772 by authority of King George, granted over 28,000 acres to Captain John Savage and 59 other soldiers. The original grant read 28,627 acres. Previous Governor Dinwiddie made the original proclamation. The boundary ran along the Virginia, now West Virginia side of the Ohio River, beginning at Catletts Creek (now Catlettsburg, Kentucky) past the mouth of Big Sandy River up that river to Forks of Big Sandy (near present-day Fort Gay, West Virginia and Louisa, Kentucky) and included land on both sides of the Big Sandy. From mouth of Big Sandy grant continued up the Ohio River, passing mouth of Guyandotte River almost to Greenbottom. Savage never settled on his land, nor did most of the other soldiers. Many of them sold their land, others lost their grant because they did not make the required improvements to their property, and a few forfeited their grant for non-payment of taxes.

In the late 1700's and early 1800's there were numerous boundary disputes. This was a result of a meeting of some of the grantees on the land in 1775, when they attempted to divide the tracts. When legal entanglements arose between some of the grantees or their heirs, a suit was brought before the chancery court at Staunton, Va. Staunton was the county seat of Augusta County which covered all the way to the Ohio River. The court empanelled a 5-member commission to divide and evaluate the land given in the grant. The commission hired Edward Tupper to conduct the survey. Tupper completed his work in 1814. He divided the grant into 61 parcels of approx 460 acres each, with Lot No. 1 at Louisa, Ky and ending with lot 61 near the Guyandotte River mouth. Lot 33 lies partly in Wayne County and part in Cabell County. In 1819 the court upheld the partitioning of the Savage Grant. This area now contains the cities of Huntington, Kenova, Ceredo, and Guyandotte. The Thomas J. Buffington (son of William) survey book was copied from the original Tupper survey book.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of a handwritten manuscript copy by Thomas J. Buffington of the plots distributed by the Savage Land Grant as resurveyed by Tupper, including plot descriptions. The manuscript is sewn as a pamphlet binding and the end pages include sums and other miscellaneous notes.

Processing Notes:

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created.

Preferred Citation:

Thomas J. Buffington Copy of Savage Land Grant Survey, Accession No. 2012/04.0793, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

Access and Use:

For more information or to use any collection, contact:

Special Collections, Morrow Library

Marshall University

One John Marshall Drive

Huntington, WV 25755

(304) 696-2343

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Container

Contents

Box 1

Folder

Thomas J. Buffington Copy of Savage Grant, circa 1816